

**From:** Ben Geyer  
**To:** Microsoft ATR,attorney.general@po.state.ct.us@inet...  
**Date:** 11/21/01 12:57am  
**Subject:** Comments re MS suit and settlement

Sirs & Mesdames:

The writer is not a resident of any of your states, but just a retired citizen of Arizona who would like to be heard. By way of background, after receiving my MSEE from MIT in 1949, I participated in the design and construction of one of the very early computers - OARAC, built by the GE company in 1949-51 for the US Air Force. Most of the rest of my career was in the field of military electronics for various military services at the GE plant in Syracuse, NY. I have, however, maintained a serious interest in the field of computers all of my life.

First of all, this may be a done deal, but it is nonetheless a bad one. I have just today seen reports to the effect that MS is being allowed to settle one or more suits by giving MS products and equipment to certain schools. That is certainly a back door method of undercutting the only minor competition that they have - namely Apple Computer. This gift should be required to be in cash with the specific provision that the schools should decide what equipment and software they need. If Apple goes down, we are all at the non-existent mercy of MS. Perish forbid!

Relative to other aspects of this case, it is my opinion that without some provision for the separation of MS into two (or more) separate companies -- perhaps 'Operating Systems' and 'Application Programs' - the entire court action will have come to naught! MS has demonstrated on numerous occasions that it is able to find its way around lesser court imposed restrictions. Let's not bother to repeat that experience. It would be a waste of the taxpayer's money and the court's time.

In short, you, ladies & gentlemen, are our final hope that the MS juggernaut can be stopped, and IT MUST BE! Please give it your very best effort!

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